GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1176
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
BANDIT GANGS OPERATING IN FORESTS .
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any strategy to liquidate the bandit gangs operating in different forests and sanctuaries in tiger and elephant reserves in Sandal and other rich forests has been worked out; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a)&(b) Maintenance of law and order and dealing with unlawful elements including dacoits basically is the mandate of the State Government. However, the Government of India provides assistance of para military forces to tackle the situation as and when the assistance is asked for. As far as the problem of poaching and illegal felling of sandal wood is concerned, the steps taken include:

i. The Government has set up a special coordination committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (E&F) and a decision has been taken to empower the CBI for investigation of wildlife offences.

ii. The states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura & West Bengal have formed the state level/district level co-ordination committees for control of illegal trade, smuggling, trafficking of wildlife and its products.

iii. Financial assistance are being provided to the State Governments for procurement of wireless systems, vehicles, arms and ammunitions for the protection and effective conservation of wildlife.

iv. Special training and intelligence gathering are being organised for the wildlife officers at the Sardar Vallabhai Police Academy.

v. Assistance to the State Govts is provided for strengthening the infrastructure through involvement of Arms Squads and Strike Forces drawn out of paramilitary forces and State Armed Constabulary specially for tiger and elephant reserves.

vi. Periodic meetings with the State Forest and Wildlife Officials are held and the State Governments are directed for greater vigilance on poaching and illegal trade.